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BRAINTREE & BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

FOR THE YEAR

1971

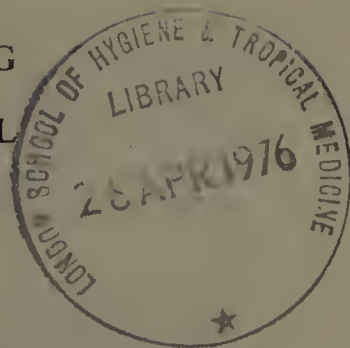
TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

**BRAINTREE AND BOCKING
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



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W. G. Thurston, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

D. Hill

Authorised Meat Inspector

N. Brook

Clerical Assistant

Miss Eileen M. Saunders

October 1972

To the Chairman and Members of Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting for your information the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district.

I am grateful to Dr. J. A. Slattery, Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex, for providing statistics of the work carried out at the Essex County Council clinics in the area.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 24,480 which gives an increase of 420 above 1970.

In 1971 there was a total of 473 live births recorded, 253 male and 220 female. The corrected birth rate per 1,000 estimated population was 19.1 which is above the national average of 16.0 for England and Wales.

In the area there were 4 infant deaths and the infant mortality rate of 8.0 was considerably below the national average of 18.0 for England and Wales. The causes of the infant deaths were (1) acute respiratory infection, (2) congestive heart failure. Congenital heart disease, (3) bronchopneumonia. Wernig-Hoffman disease and (4) multiple congenital abnormalities.

There were in 1971 305 deaths in the area giving a corrected death rate of 10 compared with the national average for England and Wales of 11.6

The extent to which individual choice regarding a way of life can influence the onset of disease and age of death is too little appreciated. A healthy way of life includes the restriction in the diet of sugar and fat from animal sources, the taking of regular physical exercise, avoidance of smoking and, as far as possible, of excessive anxiety, often caused by taking on too much in life. There is now thought to be an association between soft water and the development of coronary heart disease.

The year 1971 was a good one regarding the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There were 17 cases of measles notified, 18 whooping cough, 5 scarlet fever, 3 pulmonary tuberculosis, 2 food poisoning and 2 infective hepatitis cases.

The interadjustment of the population with the environment presents ever-increasing problems. The main aim must be to transmute quantity into quality by for example diminishing frustration caused by noise and overcrowding. Water and atmospheric pollution must be minimised. On all sides the inordinate increase in human numbers bars the way to an easy solution.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector has referred to the increase in the population of Braintree by almost 5,000 in the past 10 years and to the resulting problems at Braintree sewage works which are not producing a satisfactory effluent. It is to be hoped that the situation will improve after reconstruction of the works becomes effective.

Problems due to noise in Braintree are mainly caused by industrialists. Two factors of medical importance here are the adverse effect on mental health and also the risk of damage to hearing. Excessive noise can damage cells in the ear responsible for hearing in much the same way that excessive light on the eye caused by looking directly at the sun can damage vision.

The main problems of atmospheric pollution continue to be those connected with cigarette smoking, since the atmosphere begins in the air passages and lungs. In 1971 reports from both the Royal College of Physicians and the World Health Organisation again warned of the risks to health and life caused by smoking.

I am grateful to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support. To Mr. Bayley and his staff and to Officers in other departments I am also grateful for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH J. VAUGHAN

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Braintree,
CM7 6HB.

August, 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the Braintree and Bocking Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1971.

Comments on different aspects of the work will be found in the body of the report, but I would like to express my appreciation of the efforts of the foreman and personnel in the refuse collection service who have maintained a good service, often in difficult circumstances. I believe the introduction of the bin liner scheme which at the time of writing is in operation, will make their work a little more pleasant.

Three problems concerning nuisances from noise were successfully overcome without recourse to statutory action, but others have since taken their place. These problems often arise due to the close proximity of residential and industrial development, some alas, of recent origin. They also occur in areas where the two have existed side by side for many years in reasonable harmony when the introduction of new machines or methods create an explosive situation. There are signs that industrialists are beginning to pay more attention to noise in the factory.

There has been a big increase in the number of discretionary improvement grants made and whilst some of these have been for moderate schemes the fact remains that the completion of a discretionary improvement grant brings the house up to the twelve point standard and increases the bank of good houses in the area.

Many visits were made to houses occupied by applicants for Council Houses where the tenant had in particular complained of damp conditions. It was found that where dampness existed it was more often than not due to condensation rather than to defects in the fabric. The remedy in most cases being in the hands of the occupiers.

I wish to thank members for their support and to acknowledge the help and co-operation of the Health Department staff and of my fellow officers in other Departments.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S. F. BAYLEY,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,812
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	24,480
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	8,716
Rateable value	£1,230,658
Sum represented by a penny rate	£12,161

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	241	210	451
Illegitimate	12	10	22
Total live births	253	220	473
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			19.3
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.0
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.99			19.1
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population			16.0

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 live and still births			10.0
Rate per 1,000 births England and Wales			12.0
Total live and still births — 478			

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year —			
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total infant deaths	3	1	4
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			8.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			9.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)			4.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)			4.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			15.0
Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			18.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	Nil

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Total
	146	159	305
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			12.5
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.80			10.0
Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales			11.6

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1971

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the seventy-three headings based on the International Abbreviated List (B list) of the International Classification. The original list, circulated to Medical Officers of Health in 1968, has been changed to include additional headings in order to improve comparability with statistics published each year in the Registrar General's Statistical Review. Only those cause headings with deaths allocated to them are shown.

	Male	Female
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	4	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	1	-
Leukaemia	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	5	7
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1
Diabetes mellitus	-	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	1	-
Anaemias	-	1
Other diseases of blood, etc.	1	-
Mental disorders	-	2
Other diseases of nervous system	1	2
Hypertensive disease	2	2
Ischaemic heart disease	32	21
Other forms of heart disease	-	8
Cerebrovascular disease	22	32
Other diseases of circulatory system	8	10
Pneumonia	23	26
Bronchitis and emphysema	6	4
Asthma	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-
Peptic ulcer	2	4
Cirrhosis of liver	-	1
Other diseases of digestive system	2	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	3	3
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	3
Congenital anomalies	2	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1
All other accidents	2	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-
Total All Causes	146	159

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:—

(i) Braintree—Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road:—

			Attendances
Dental Clinic	Monday, Wednesday Thursday and Friday	By Appt.	2,871
School Clinic	Alternate Tuesdays	10 a.m.	285
Child Health Clinic	Every Tuesday	1.30 p.m.	2,651
Cervical Cytology	1st and 3rd Friday	By Appt.	142
Speech Therapy	Tuesday a.m. and p.m. Thursday a.m.	By Appt.	468
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation			
Poliomyelitis Vaccination			
Measles Vaccination	1st Friday	2 p.m.	
Chiropody		By Appt.	
Mothercraft and Relaxation Classes	Monday and Thursday p.m.	By Appt.	
Welfare Foods	Monday, Tuesday Wednesday and Friday	9.15 a.m.	
The Family Planning Association provides services at the following times	Wednesday	9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. 2 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.	
Bocking—Village Hall			
Child Health Clinic	4th Thursday	2 p.m.	324

(ii) Home Help Service:—

This service was administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, until July 1971 and then from the Social Services Department, 23 Bocking End, Braintree.

(iii) Ambulance Service:—

The Ambulance Station is situated in Cressing Road, Braintree. A full 24 hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services:—

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents, the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board:—

(i) Chest Clinics:—

These are held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	2	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	2	—	—
Measles	17	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	2	—
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	18	—	—
Totals	50	4	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

	At all ages	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 19	20 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	17	5	4	3	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	18	5	1	2	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Totals	50	11	6	5	2	5	8	1	-	4	1	4	-	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

Diseases	Total Notified	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	17	-	-	5	2	-	5	2	2	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	18	-	-	3	6	2	2	2	3	-	-	-	-
Totals	50	2	-	10	8	2	9	5	8	3	1	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 34	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 64	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

	By General Practitioners	By County Staff	Totals
Primary Courses			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	317	56	373
Diphtheria and Tetanus	5	5	10
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Pertussis	—	—	—
Tetanus	11	11	22
Poliomyelitis	292	74	366
Smallpox	214	—	214
B.C.G.	—	534	534
Measles	303	39	342
Rubella	2	379	381
Reinforcing Doses			
Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus	48	4	52
Diphtheria and Tetanus	234	120	354
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Pertussis	—	—	—
Tetanus	18	26	44
Poliomyelitis	287	169	456
Smallpox	11	—	11

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

During 1971 water was supplied by the Colchester and District Water Board.

It is understood that all the water was chlorinated before passing into the mains and none is liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the supply from Codham being subjected to aeration, filtration and softening to ensure a water of an acceptable quality.

Seven samples of water in supply were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and reported as satisfactory.

Following a request a sample was taken of a private spring supply serving two houses, the result of which was unsatisfactory. Due to alteration the sample was taken via a collecting well which had not been used for some time but was now intended for use. The well was cleaned out and chlorinated. The follow up sample showed a great improvement and was satisfactory.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and a typical result is as follows:-

Samples of Colchester and District Water in Supply 2.3.71.

Chemical Results in Milligrammes per Litre (ppm)

Appearance: Bright with a few particles	Free Carbon Dioxide	4
Colour (Hazen) Nil	Dissolved Solids dried at	
pH 7.9	180°C	470
Electric Conductivity 680	Alkalinity as Calcium	
Chlorine present as Chloride . . . 110	Carbonate	160
Hardness: Total 230	Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3
Carbonate 160	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Non-carbonate 70	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Oxygen Absorbed 0.30	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00
Residual Chlorine 0.05	Metals: Iron, Zinc, Copper,	
Turbidity less than: 1	Lead	Absent
Odour Nil		

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

It is estimated that 24716 persons who occupy 8675 houses are served by public mains. Of these 4 houses with an estimated population of 7 are served by 4 standpipes situated in the open.

There are 41 houses with private supplies, 37 of which are piped inside.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer of the Colchester and District Water Board for the year 1st April, 1971 to the 31st March, 1972.

The quantity of water which has been available for supply in the Urban District exceeded the consumption and no restrictions have been necessary.

The Board took a total of 1325 bacteriological samples in their area 1234 of which were satisfactory. Of the 91 suspicious or unsatisfactory samples one was taken in supply in the Urban District area and eleven from the Notley Road Bore. A further sample in supply proved satisfactory. At Notley Road there is a history of mildly unsatisfactory samples and to ensure satisfactory consumer supply chlorination is controlled to give a residual of 0.6 ppm at the inlet to the reservoir, in addition the borehole has been chlorinated on two occasions.

Typical chemical analyses are summarised as follows:-

	Notley Road Bore	Codham Bore South	Codham Bore North	Water as Supplied
	Before Treatment			
Colour (Hazen)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	7.8	7.3	7.4	7.7
Electric Conductivity	1700	870	920	780
Chlorine in Chloride	385	107	120	122
Hardness: Total	130	350	365	255
Carbonate	130	310	305	185
Non-carbonate	0	40	60	70
Nitrogen in Nitrate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.60	0.20	0.40	0.00
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Less than	Less than		
Turbidity	1	1	2	2
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	8	30	23	7
Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C	1150	600	650	560
Alkalinity as Ca CO ₃	290	310	305	185
Nitrogen in Nitrite	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Permanganate Value	0.20	0.2	0.20	0.20
Residual Chlorine	0.2
Iron	0.14	0.15	0.29	0.12
Zinc	0.04	Absent	0.18	0.11
Copper, lead, manganese	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	4.3	1.1	1.1	1.0
Anionic Synthetic Detergent as Manoxol O.T.	Less than 0.2	Less than 0.2	Less than 0.2	Less than 0.2

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Over the past 10 years the population has increased by almost 5,000 and some 2,000 houses have been constructed in spite of some building restriction. It is little wonder that this together with a high standard of effluent required by the river authority because of a low dilution has resulted in expansion having to take place almost yearly at one or other of the sewage works.

The Bocking works has been functioning satisfactorily and is adequate for the needs of the area it serves. Five samples of effluent for this works were taken by the Essex River Authority and all were satisfactory.

At the Braintree works the picture is completely different and the works are not producing a satisfactory effluent. Twenty-one samples were taken, one was satisfactory with regard to suspended solids and 3 were of satisfactory Biochemical Oxygen demand. Much progress has been made on the reconstruction of the works which, carried on around the existing works, have not given the best of working conditions. The works have been barely adequate for the demands made on it but the new capacity will prove sufficient when it becomes operational in 1972.

There are seventy-six houses not draining to the sewer where none is available and 14 houses sharing 7 W.C.'s.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The efforts of the refuse collectors, carrying out an arduous and dirty task, are to be commended for maintaining during the majority of the year a weekly collection. The problems of breakdowns, adverse weather conditions and shortage of labour were overcome eventually but were aggravated by some reluctance to work on Saturdays.

The Council agreed to institute a system whereby plastic liners for dustbins are supplied to each house. This system has many advantages, including hygiene and better working conditions. Its use should also make it possible to eliminate Saturday working.

The Surveyor appointed a Supervisory Fitter during the year and, as a result, there has been a considerable improvement in routine maintenance. A new vehicle was ordered for delivery early in 1972 and, for financial reasons the period over which the others were to be ordered has been extended. As a result it may be necessary to run two spare vehicles for a short time because the present spare has insufficient capacity to take the place of a larger continuous loading vehicle on household refuse collection. This spare vehicle is in regular use for collecting trade refuse and large items, and is also able to deal with bulk containers for which it is well suited. It also has to cope with maintaining the rounds during maintenance and breakdowns which it does with indifferent success and may in part have contributed to delays on the rounds. This situation will be alleviated as and when the new vehicles are put in use. Looking ahead to the reorganisation of local government and the amalgamation of districts it is obvious that standardisation of vehicles will need investigation. At present in the districts concerned nearly all the vehicles are of one make.

There were 100 bulk containers in use during the year, a further 30 having been purchased which leaves 7 in stock. There is still a further potential for more of these containers but the demand has steadied and is mainly confined to new shops and factories.

During the year there were two periods when special collections for bulky articles were made, calls were made at 760 houses and many unwanted articles which otherwise might have found their way into ditches or on to waste ground were disposed of satisfactorily. This was carried out by our spare vehicle and a hired lorry. In addition lay-bys, ditches, garage sites and other similar sites are regularly cleared.

Refuse was again disposed of by controlled tipping at Straits Mill satisfactorily throughout the year.

A bonus scheme for the driver of the tip machine was introduced by the Work Study Department. It is working satisfactorily and has reduced the number of hours this man has to work whilst maintaining his output. The present tipping area has now a life of no more than two years but there is another area from which gravel has been extracted which could take care of the immediate future. Further than that it is unwise to speculate at present but other methods are kept in mind and will be investigated as necessary.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS

During the year 1971 the following inspections were made by the Public Health Inspectors to the premises detailed:-

Nature of Inspections	Primary Visits	Re-Visits	Total Visits
Housing – Unfit Houses	20	20	40
Housing – Houses in Multiple Occupation	6	5	11
Housing – Qualification Certificates	78	201	279
Housing – Improvement Grants	263	346	609
Housing – Other Visits	50	6	56
Public Health Act – Housing	62	120	182
Public Health Act – Other Visits	61	32	93
Water Supply	53	8	61
Water Sampling	12	—	12
Notifiable Diseases	13	25	38
Food and Drugs Act	20	9	29
Food Hygiene Regulations	35	1	36
Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & D.V.) Regs.	83	—	83
Ice Cream Premises	1	—	1
Ice Cream Sampling	5	—	5
Slaughterhouse Hygiene Regulations	34	16	50
Slaughterhouse Cruelty Regulations	16	6	22
Meat and Food Inspection:-			
(a) Slaughterhouses	1938	20	1958
(b) Other than Slaughterhouses	51	2	53
Factories Act (Power)	8	—	8
Factories Act (Building Sites)	13	—	13
Shops Act	3	1	4
Drainage	115	19	134
Atmospheric Pollution	23	14	37
Overcrowding	2	—	2
Caravan Sites	6	13	19
Vermin and Insect Pests	28	29	57
Rat Infestations	104	1	105
Interviews Owners/Builders	110	—	110
Knackers' Yard	10	—	10
Swimming Baths	64	—	64
Swimming Baths – Sampling	9	—	9
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	35	6	41
Civic Amenities Act	32	9	41
Public Cleansing	433	16	449
Noise Abatement Act	40	87	127
Animal Boarding Establishments Act	2	—	2
Pet Animals Act	2	—	2
Miscellaneous	291	—	291
Totals	4131	1012	5143

(2) NOTICES

Sanitary Defects and Nuisances

	Defects etc. Found	Work Done or Abated
(a) Housing		
Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc.	16	9
Other external defects	6	8
Damp walls	5	3
Internal defects	21	18
Defective sinks	1	1
(b) Drainage		
Choked drains and W.C's	170	170
Defective drains	1	2
(c) General		
Defective W.C's and W.C. structures	5	5
Houses with defective dustbins	4	4
Contraventions of Shops Act	5	-
Other nuisances	-	1
Noise nuisance	1	1
	Notices Served	Notices Abated
INFORMAL	33	31
STATUTORY	2	1

HOUSING

Ninety-four houses were completed by the Council during 1971 and a further one hundred and seventy privately.

Repair of Houses

Eighteen houses were made fit as a result of formal and informal action under the Housing Act and Public Health Act.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Discretionary Improvements	Conversion	Standard
Applications Received			
Number of dwellings	95	6	65
Grants approved owner/occupier	62	—	23
others	30	6	41
Maximum extended (included in above) .	—	—	2
No. allowable repairs included	79	6	—
Applications withdrawn	1	—	1
Applications refused	2	—	—
Number of cases where higher amount substituted for unforeseen work	8	—	—
Amount Approved			
Total cost approved work	£45917	£12409	—
Repairs	£11500	£2530	—
Other Work	£6188	£3668	—
Approved expenses	£57417	£14939	—
Amount of grant approved	£27789	£6000	£7685
Annual charge on rates	£1430	£309	£396
Grant Paid			
Number of dwellings	67	—	49
Amount paid	£15733	—	£5281
Annual charge on rates	£810	—	£272
Amenities provided:			
Baths	—	—	19
Wash basins	—	—	29
Sinks	—	—	2
Hot and Cold water supply at 1 or 2 points	—	—	21
3 points	—	—	16
Inside W.C's	—	—	36
Bathrooms added	—	—	3

HOUSING ACT, 1969 — Part III

IMPROVEMENT CASES

1. No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(2) . . . 2
2. No. of certificates of provisional approval issued 21
3. No. of qualification certificates issued under section 46(3) 18

STANDARD AMENITIES ALREADY PROVIDED

4. No. of applications for qualification certificates under section 44(1) . . . 31
5. No. of qualification certificates issued under section 45(2) in respect of:-
 - (a) dwellings with rateable value of £60 or more 12
 - (b) dwellings with rateable value of £40 to less than £60 11

EXEMPTIONS FOR LOW INCOME TENANTS FROM SECTION 54

6. No. of certificates issued under section 55 Nil

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Due to precedence having to be given to other work only 41 visits were made to various premises. However, taking into account the general conditions found, the experience of previous years and the lack of complaints from those employed, it is felt that the position is generally satisfactory. The contraventions found were of a minor nature and soon remedied. It was not necessary to institute legal proceedings.

No applications for exemptions were received and three accidents were notified, which being only slight were not investigated.

The leaflet "The Safe use of Food Slicing Machines" was in general well received. Experience and observation has shown that these machines are used with care and since this Act came into force, over seven years ago, only one accident involving a food slicer has been notified.

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered During Year	Total Number of Registered Premises at end of Year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	4	54	3	424
Retail Shops	6	116	7	681
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	1	6	1	70
Catering Establishments open to the Public and Canteens	1	15	1	102
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	—	—
Total	12	191	12	1277
Total Males				478
Total Females				799

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(I) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	6	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	125	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	26	13	—	—
Total	157	21	—	—

(II) Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) . . .	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes . .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS

There are fifteen outworkers in the District engaged in the making of wearing apparel. No contraventions of Sections 133 and 134 were observed.

SHOPS ACT

Four visits were recorded to various shops under this Act and occupiers notified of contraventions.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The daily volumetric smoke and sulphur instrument continued to operate as part of the National Survey.

Two applications for the approval of the installation of boilers under the Clean Air Act were made and granted.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Three permanent sites, two for single caravans, were licenced during the year together with a single caravan on Council-owned land which does not require a licence.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two open-air pools in the district, one of which is at a school, sixty-four visits were made to the pools when tests for available chlorine were made, samples taken and advice given where necessary.

The number of samples submitted during the year was as follows:-

	Bacteriological	Chemical
Council Baths		
Main Pool	3	—
Tabor Pool	4	—
John Bunyan School	2	—

At the beginning of the season two samples from the Tabor Pool showed the presence of Coliform bacilli which were soon dealt with by increased chlorination. The follow up and all the other samples were satisfactory.

The Council Pool is opened for special instruction sessions for school children from Braintree and surrounding areas.

INSECT PESTS

The occupiers of private slaughterhouses were advised and assisted regarding fly control and premises were kept under surveillance.

Advice and assistance were also given to occupiers regarding ants, beetles, bugs, fleas and other pests in respect of 34 premises.

The tip and refuse collection vehicles were treated to control flies.

In addition the Rodent Operator dealt with 89 wasps' nests and 9 bees nests.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

The licence for one plant for sterilisation of waste foods operating in the area was renewed during the year.

STEAM DISINFECTOR

This apparatus was not used during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Three licences to keep pet shops were renewed during the year. One is at a stall in the market.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

One licence to keep a cattery was renewed.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

There were two dealers registered in 1971.

RODENT CONTROL

The services of a full-time operator were again shared with neighbouring Authorities.

The work done during the year was as follows:-

Total number of inspections and reinspections	881
Number of properties found to be infested and treated:	
Major	5
Minor	219
Mice	117
Survey only	78
Number of block control schemes carried out	3

During the period covered by this report your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a chargeable basis.

A 10 per cent test of the sewers was made with a satisfactory result, no takes being recorded.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No legal proceedings were instituted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During the year eleven cases of foreign bodies in food, five cases of mouldy food and one case of food unfit for human consumption were investigated.

ICE CREAM

Two local manufacturers and their premises were registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream and one was registered for the manufacture and sale of soft ice cream.

Sixty-nine certificates of registration were in force covering vendors of ice cream retailing from shops and mobile vans in the area. A few vendors elsewhere in the County of Essex also operate in the Council's district.

Five samples of ice cream were submitted for the methylene blue reduction tests with the following results:-

Manufactured in District		Manufactured Outside the District	
One in Provisional Grade	I	Three in Provisional Grade	I
One in Provisional Grade	II	Nil in Provisional Grade	II
Nil in Provisional Grade	III	Nil in Provisional Grade	III
Nil in Provisional Grade	IV	Nil in Provisional Grade	IV

It is pleasing to note that although the number of samples taken was limited, none fell in the lower grades.

MEAT

Throughout the year the Council made a charge for the inspection of all meat in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, and each carcase

was stamped. Revised prices were authorised by regulation and were implemented in September.

Horse flesh slaughtered in the Urban District for human consumption is sold outside the Council's area.

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and conditions during the year:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	3123	147	78	8236	19409	565
Number inspected	3123	147	78	8236	19409	565
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCOSIS						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	21	2	4	40	1
Weight in lb. condemned	926	9260	127	132	2954	420
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	318	52	5	116	2460	3
Weight in lb. condemned	4730	1754	24	202	4609	36
Percentage affected	10.2	49.7	8.9	1.5	12.9	0.7
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:-						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	10	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	153	—
Percentage affected	—	—	—	—	0.05	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:-						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight in lb. condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected	—	—	—	—	—	—

Each slaughterhouse occupier was responsible for the satisfactory disposal of all condemned meat and offal. Supervision by your inspectors ensured that this method provided adequate safeguards to Public Health.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Fourteen licences to act as a slaughterman were renewed during the year. Four of these licences were extended to include the slaughter of horses and two new licences were granted.

OTHER FOODS

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the district, the following items were surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year:-

	lb.		lb.
Beef	147	Tinned Ham & Pork Shoulder ...	68
Pork	212	Tinned Pork Luncheon Meat	29
Lamb	30	Tinned Corned Beef	32
Fish	59	Tinned Veal	6
Frozen Ducks	21	Tinned Fish	47
Frozen Chickens	142	Tinned Peaches	240
Frozen Food	461	Tinned Pears	84
Bacon	25	Tinned Pineapple	137
Cooked Meat	30	Tinned Blackcurrants	35
Sausages	3	Tinned Fruit	588
Winkles	86	Tinned Tomatoes	58
Dates	70	Tinned Vegetables	530
Dried Fruit	15	Miscellaneous	538
Jam	135		

Total 3828 lb.

FOOD HYGIENE

During the year 119 visits were made to various premises, including market stalls, and the following contraventions were found and remedied:-

	Found	Remedied
Sanitary conveniences	1	6
Wash basins	—	6
Cleanliness and repair of food rooms	—	6
Cleanliness of equipment	—	2
Accumulations of refuse	—	1
First Aid	—	1

In addition several minor contraventions were dealt with informally.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises totalling 182 where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:-

Hotels and Licensed Premises	46
Restaurants (including snack bars)	13
Works Canteens	6
School Canteens	15
Butchers	14
Slaughterhouses	4
Food Manufacturing Premises	2
Wet and Fried Fish Shops	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers	2
Dairies and Milk Distributors	4
Grocers	36
Greengrocers	6
Bakehouses	7
Bread and Cake Confectioners	3
Other Food Shops	12
Hospitals, etc.	5

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, relating to the sampling of food and drugs are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that department has kindly supplied the following list of samples taken in this area:-

Article Sampled	Number submitted to Analyst	Number found genuine	Number found adulterated or below Standard
Almond Flavouring Essence,			
Concentrated	1	1	—
Baked Beans in Tomato Sauce	1	1	—
Beetroot in Vinegar. Sliced	1	1	—
Butter Beans	1	1	—
Corn. Tinned	1	1	—
Cheese Sauce Mix	1	1	—
Cinnamon. Ground	1	1	—
Horse Radish. Creamed	1	1	—
Horse Radish. Grated. English	1	1	—
Herbs. Mixed	1	1	—
Lentils	1	1	—
Milk—Channel Islands	1	1	—
County Establishment Milk ..	4	4	—
Farm Tanker Milk	3	3	—
Homogenised	1	1	—
Hospital Milk	8	8	—
Pasteurised	13	13	—
School Milk	11	11	—
Sterilised	2	2	—
Onion Gravy Mix	1	1	—
Pease pudding. Golden	1	1	—
Peas. Dried	1	1	—
Potato Salad in Mayonnaise	1	1	—
Pickling spice. Finest	1	1	—
Peanut Butter. Smooth	2	2	—
Salt. Seasoned	1	1	—
Soup — Cream of Chicken	1	1	—
Thick Country Vegetable ...	1	1	—
Vinegar — Malt with Caramel & Salt .	1	1	—
Pure Malt	1	1	—
Malt with Caramel	2	2	—
Total	68	68	—

